

*Amendments to the Specification*

In the specification, Paragraph 005 is amended as follows:

U.S. Patent No. ~~5,384,182~~ 5,374,182 to Gessner discloses a hot runner manifold bushing that does not accommodate for the formation of dead spots behind the valve pin. Reference is also made to U.S. Patent No. 3,716,318; U.S. Patent No. 4,781,572; U.S. Patent No. 4,932,858; and U.S. Patent No. 5,811,140 that teach various valve bushing designs.

In the specification, Paragraph 009 is amended as follows:

According to yet another aspect of the present invention there is provided an injection molding apparatus comprising:

a manifold having a manifold channel for receiving a melt stream of moldable material under pressure and delivering said melt stream to a nozzle, said manifold channel undergoing a change of direction from an inlet to an outlet and being aligned with a nozzle channel of said nozzle;

a mold cavity for receiving said melt stream from said nozzle, said nozzle channel communicating with said mold cavity through a mold gate;

a valve pin extending through a bore provided in said manifold and through said nozzle channel, said valve pin being movable to selectively open and close said mold gate;

a guide projecting from an inner wall of said manifold channel, said guide being integrally formed with the inner wall of said manifold channel and diametrically

R2  
opposing said inlet for facilitating flow of said melt stream, said guide being located behind said valve pin and abutting a portion of said valve pin.

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In the specification, Paragraph 020 is amended as follows:

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Figure 5 shows a valve pin 26 that is slidable through the manifold 10 along axis 30. Walls of the bore 28 provide a bushing for the valve pin 26. The bore 28 is sized to form a seal between the valve pin 26 and the manifold plug ~~10~~40 so that moldable material does not escape through the bore 28.

R3  
In the specification, Paragraph 021 is amended as follows:

The manifold 10 of Figure 5 includes the flow restriction element or guide 70. Similar to the guide 70 in Figure 4, the guide projects into the manifold melt channel 12. The guide 70 includes a curved guide surface 72, which abuts the valve pin 26. The guide surface 72 is surrounded by a guide edge 74, as shown in Figure 8. Referring now to Figures 6-10, the guide 70 is better illustrated. Guide 70 is integrally formed with an inner wall of the manifold melt channel 12. Although the guide 70 shown in Figures 6-10 is located on the manifold plug 40, it will be appreciated that the guide has the same structure as the guide 70 of Figure 5.

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